



USS LST-769

Builder: American Bridge Company, Ambridge, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 9 October 1944

Decommissioned: 29 April 1946

Disposition: Sold for commercial operations on 11 December 1947 to the California Company.

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea); 3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

Commanding Officers:

LT E. B. Bertini: 9 October 1944 - 6 December 1945

LT M. K. Vignes, USCGR: 6 December 1945 - 29 April 1946

History:

USS *LST-769*

LST Flotilla 29, Group 86, Division 172

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-769* was built by the American Bridge Company at Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and completed in September, 1944. She was then floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans where she was placed in full commission on arrival on 9 October 1944, with Lt. E. B. Bertini, USCG, as commanding officer with a crew of five other officers and 113 enlisted men of the U. S. Coast Guard. The shakedown at Panama City, Florida extended from October 18th to the 31st, when the LST returned to New Orleans for loading *LCT-1265*. She departed for Gulfport on 9 November 1944, to lead a cargo of heavy vehicles.

Departing Gulfport, Mississippi, on 11 November 1944, she reached Pearl Harbor, via the Panama Canal on 7 December 1944. From December 7th to 27th the time was spent in logistics and leading of causeways and the 711th Tank Battalion. Departing for Leyte on the latter date, she arrived via Eniwetok and Kossol Roads, on 1 February 1945, and unloaded at Dulag, Leyte. She departed for Guadalcanal area on February 8th, and arrived on the 19th for logistics, training, loading and rehearsals for the Okinawa invasion which occupied the crew until 12 March 1945. On that date she departed for Ulithi as part of Task Unit 53.3.1 under Commander, Amphibious Group Five of the Fifth Fleet. On 30 March 1945, she lost the starboard causeway in heavy seas. At dawn on 1 April 1945, while approaching Okinawa the convoy came under attack by unidentified enemy bomber which was shot down by the convoy's escorts. On 1 April 1945, she landed. Headquarters and "I" Company, Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, Sixth Marine Division and Ninth Amphibious Tractor Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps in initial assault on Red Beach One, off the town of Hagushi, Okinawa. The 769 remained off Hagushi's beaches discharging cargo until 8 April 1945, the port causeway and *LCT-1265* being launched on the 2nd. The area was under enemy attack on numerous occasions, a Japanese Aichi D3A1 "Val" dive bomber making approach on the Unit on 6 April 1945, being shot down by concerted fire of the LSTs in the vicinity. The 769 departed Okinawa on 8 April 1945, and arrived at Leyte on 31 April 1945. A resupply run to Okinawa on 27 April 1945, brought elements of the 96th Infantry Division, cargo being discharged over coral reef on 2 May 1945.

Arriving Saipan on the 18th she loaded for the invasion of Iheya Shima, departing on May 24th as part of Task Unit 51.25.14 with Shore Party "A", Second Marine Division and 141st Replacement Draft, U.S. Marine Corps. Arriving at Iheya Shima on June 6th, D+1 day, she unloaded vehicles and bulk cargo offshore and departed area without enemy opposition of any kind and without incident. She departed Okinawa on 10 June 1945, and arrived at Leyte on June 15th, where she was assigned to Task Unit 72.10.6 under Commander, Service Force, 7th

Fleet, for purpose of lifting Fifth Air Force personnel and equipment from the Philippines to Okinawa. Subsequently the LST made two round trips to Okinawa from Subic Bay, returning to Batangas Bay the 728th Tank Battalion which was withdrawn from Okinawa. The Photo Reconnaissance force carried to Okinawa by this LST on the first trip subsequently took the first pictures of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On 17 September 1945, 769 departed Lingayen Gulf with Headquarters and Service Company, 27th Engineer Construction Battalion for the occupation of Wakayama, Japan, arriving on 25 September 1945, to discharge cargo and personnel without incident and departed for Lingayen Gulf on 1 October 1945, where she was re-routed to Manila to arrive on 9 October 1945. She departed for Lingayen Gulf on the 19th arriving at Wakayama on October 27th, discharging cargo and passengers the following day. She arrived at Okinawa on November 2nd, where she loaded personnel and equipment of 1536th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company of the 187th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company of the 98th Portable Hospital and departed for Sasebo, Japan, on the 18th where cargo and passengers were discharged on 21 November 1945 without mishap.

On 24 November 1945, she began her long trek homeward with the first stop at Saipan where she arrived on 1 December 1945, after passing through the northeast quadrant of a medium intensity tropical typhoon on the evening of 28-29 November 1945. Winds up to 50 knots, mountainous seas and all of the violent phenomena of these storms were experienced. She departed Saipan on December 8th, for Pearl Harbor which was reached on 23 December 1945. San Francisco was next on 1 June 1946, and after a trip through the Canal she finally reached New Orleans on 13 February 1946. She was decommissioned at New Orleans on 29 April 1946.

The *LST-769* was awarded one battle star for her service during World War II.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

A photo of the LST-769 underway.
Courtesy of Michelle Musselman and Robert Smith.

Sources:

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

